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Follow-up to La Sapiniere (Informal Meeting
of NATO Foreign Ministers)

1. Official and unofficial reactions to La Sapiniere have been generally favorable, with the Europeans welcoming attempts to defuse immediate controversy over the pipeline in favor of taking a hard look at the fundamentals of Alliance economic policy towards the East. The atmosphere surrounding COCOM talks has improved, but specific problems remain, and there have been no signs of a breakthrough on the subsidized-credits front. The Europeans have the impression that Secretary Shultz wants to make progress on technology, credits, and on an agreed East-West policy in order to be able to relax pipeline sanctions; but some Europeans remain skeptical that the President will change his mind.

2. We have no direct information on steps which Secretary Shultz may have taken to carry forward whatever understandings were reached at La Sapiniere. [REDACTED]

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3. As of October 9, the French were saying they still needed "a little time" to respond to the "Shultz document."

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